



**FOLIAGE REPORT:** The Maine Department of Conservation has issued its first foliage report of the season. The Maine Forest Service is reporting that some yellow and paper birches have been stressed by the hot summer weather and leaves are beginning to fall. However, we are still on track to see peak conditions up north the last two weeks of September with the rest of the state peaking from north to south the first weeks of October. The Maine foliage website is [www.maine-foliage.com](http://www.maine-foliage.com); they are also on Facebook by searching for Maine Fall Foliage.

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## Webber Pond drawdown underway



Top photo, using a newly-installed boom, Allen Browne, center, removes the new aluminum stop boards at the Webber Pond dam as the annual drawdown got underway on September 13. Assisting were Nate Gray, of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, left, and Taylor Browne. Anyone from the center to the north end of the lake who has not removed their boat should do so soon.

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## Messalonskee robotics team selected to test improved competition field network

The Infinite Loop Robotics team from Messalonskee High School, in Oakland, has been selected by the FIRST Robotics Competition Committee (FRC) to participate in the FRC Beta Day. FRC Engineering has been working to improve the network configuration of the competition field over the course of the summer. The goal of the FRC Beta Day is to test these changes during an actual competition and find any remaining bugs prior to the start to the 2011 FRC season. The competition will be held in Merrimack, New Hampshire, on Saturday, September 11.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high-schoolers discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be. It is a sport where the participants play with the pros and learn from them. Designing and building a robot is a fascinating real-world professional experience. Competing on stage brings participants as much excitement and adrenaline rush as conventional varsity tournaments. The game rules are a surprise every year.

The FIRST Robotics Competition challenges students and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week time frame using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions designed by a committee of engineers and other professionals.

Eighteen teams were selected to compete in a competition named "Breakaway" to test the new field system. Breakaway is a three on three soccer match played with robots on a 54-ft. by 27-ft. field with 12

soccer balls. Each match consists of a 15 second autonomous period and a two minute teleoperated period. During the autonomous period robots attempt to score soccer balls into their alliance goal without operator guidance. In the teleoperated period, student drivers control their robots and attempt to score goals. Two alliances, one red and one blue, composed of three FRC teams each, compete in each match. The object of the game is to attain a higher score than your opponent by shooting soccer balls into a goal. A bonus worth two points is given to each robot that elevates above the Alliance Tower or Platform in the last 20 seconds of each match. Each scored ball is worth one point. View the video of the game description at [www.team2648.com/challenge](http://www.team2648.com/challenge)

The Infinite Loop Team built and programmed the robot at Wrabacon, in Oakland, during the January/February six-week build season. 2010 was an amazing season. Our team finished second out of 40 teams from across New England at the Beantown Blitz held at Northeastern University, competed in the Boston Regional Competition where they finished



Messalonskee High School robotics team.

Contributed photo

second out of 53 teams and were selected to compete at the World Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. Out of 1800 teams, approximately 300 teams from around the world competed on four game fields at the Georgia Dome. Teams from 12 countries, 48 states and four provinces were in attendance. Please visit our website to view pictures of our season at <http://team2648.com>

This fall, Infinite Robotics will be raising money to compete in the 2011 robotics season. Some of the main sponsors for the 2010 season were The Maine State Credit Union of Augusta, Bear Springs Camps of Rome, Sappi Paper, Sheridan, and NF Luce. If interested in helping the Infinite Loop Robotics Team through sponsorship or mentorship please contact Jamee Luce at [jluce@rsu18.org](mailto:jluce@rsu18.org).

## Franco-Americans celebrate their heritage



Top left, Alice Veilleux Lachance, of Winslow, poses behind the wheel of one of the antique cars on display at the Franco-American Festival in Waterville. She is accompanied by Lucienne Veilleux, of Canada, Suzanne Talbot, of Winslow, Françoise Veilleux, of Montreal, and Chrystyne Veilleux, of Canada, all sisters who came for the big Veilleux-Vigue Family reunion. They dressed in clothes of the 1800s to represent the time period when the French were immigrating to Central Maine from Canada. The car is a 1922 Buick Model 45, owned by Anne and Rick Fischer, of South China. Left, Four ladies won prizes for their homemade tourtiere pies at Sunday's Franco-American Festival at the Head of Falls in Waterville. Left to right are first place winner Cecile Libby, of Winslow; second place winner Janet White, of Waterville; and third place team Simone Vashone and Madeline Vachon, both of Augusta. Photos by Emily Rowden. Above right, Students from St. John Regional Catholic School participated at the Franco-American festival by entertaining the audience with three songs in French led by French teacher Madame Sirois.

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